

**Generic Name:**

**Amiodarone**

**Brand Name:** Cordarone

**Class:** Antiarrhythmic agent

**Mechanism of Action:**

Multiple effects on sodium, potassium and calcium channels.

Prolongs action potential, refractory period, and ventricular automaticity (potassium channel blockade).

Slows membrane depolarization and impulse conduction (sodium channel blockade).

Negative chronotropic activity in nodal tissue, rate reduction, and antisympathetic activity (calcium channel and  $\beta$ -blockade).

Dilates coronary arteries due to calcium channel and alpha-adrenergic blocking action.

**Indications for use:**

Treatment of: shock-refractory VF/pulseless VT, polymorphic VT, and wide complex tachycardia of uncertain origin.

Control hemodynamically stable ventricular tachycardia when cardioversion unsuccessful.

Adjunct to cardioversion of SVT and PSVT.

Rate control in atrial fibrillation or flutter.

**Contraindications:**

Bradycardia

Second or third degree heart block

Cardiogenic shock

Hypotension

Pulmonary congestion

**Adverse Reactions:**

Cardiovascular: bradycardia, hypotension, asystole/cardiac arrest, atrio-ventricular block, Torsades de Pointes, congestive heart failure

GI & Hepatic: nausea, vomiting, abnormal liver function tests

Skin: slate-blue pigmentation

Other: fever, headache, dizziness, flushing, abnormal salivation, photophobia.

**Notes on Administration**

**Incompatibilities/Drug Interactions:**

Beta blockers, calcium channel blockers, and other antiarrhythmics are additive and can be proarrhythmic when given in combination with amiodarone due to similar mechanisms of action.

Amiodarone precipitates at certain concentrations when mixed at a Y-site with sodium bicarbonate or furosemide.

**Adult Dosage:**

For maintenance infusion post resuscitation:

After successful defibrillation, follow with up to 1mg/min IV infusion for 6 hours, then up to 0.50 mg/min IV infusion for 18 hours.

For maintenance infusion:

Rates range from 0.50mg/min to 1mg/min. Maximum daily dose is 2.0 g

**Route of Administration:** IV infusion

**Onset of Action:** Variable

**Peak effects:** Variable

**Duration of Action:** Half-life may exceed 40 days.

**Dosage Forms/Packaging:** 2 – 3 glass ampules, 150mg/6.0 mL

**Arizona Drug Box Standard Supply:** None. For inter-facility transport only.

**Special Notes:**

- > May prolong QT interval.
- > Use with caution if hepatic failure is present or if administered in combination with other drugs.
- > Patient must be on a cardiac monitor—monitor heart rate and rhythm.
- > Must be administered on an IV infusion pump.
- > Amiodarone is an optional drug.